The collections under arrears improved. The balance pending recovery at the end of the year fell from Rs. 77,760 to Rs. 73,334. The value of movable and immovable properties sold in auction declined from ·8 per cent to ·7 per cent of the total collections. The average number of days during which the Division Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam, were on circuit, rose from 175 days to 200 days. The officer deputed to inspect the working of the new system of registers and accounts introduced by the Land Revenue Manual, submitted his report, upon which orders were passed by the Government, issuing detailed instructions for remedying the defects brought to light in the inspection. The report showed that, in spite of the imperfections incidental to the working of a new system in its initial stages, the principles of land revenue administration inculcated in the Manual were fairly well grasped and acted upon by the officers concerned. The Tahsildars in charge of the taluks were empowered to exercise the powers of a Division Peishkar under Section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation. The Deputy Tahsildars have recently been divested of the duties of ex-officio Head Accountants of Treasuries, so as to enable them to devote better attention to revenue work. With a view to reduce the territorial jurisdiction of the Chengannur taluk, which, with its large area of 925·97 square miles and enormous volume of puduval work, badly stood in need of bifurcation, a new taluk, with its headquarters at Pattanamtitta, was constituted with effect from the beginning of 1095. This has, in effect, brought about a re-adjustment of the territorial jurisdiction of the Tahsildars of Chengannur and Tiruvalla, to the immense advantage of the inhabitants of those taluks. The concessions granted in the matter of the registry of lands along the banks of the Neyyar, Chittar, Killiyar and Karamana rivers, were extended to the holders of lands on either side of the Kuzhittura and Kallada rivers. Orders were issued laying down the procedure to be followed for the rectification of the mistakes discovered in the resurvey of the Nedumangad taluk. In addition to the area in the Vilappil pakuthi of the Neyyattinkara taluk already registered in the names of pulayas, an additional area in the Uzhamalakkal pakuthi, Nedumangad taluk, is proposed to be assigned in their favour, to make up the entire extent of 500 acres promised to them. The old Boundary Regulation, III of 1058, as amended by Regulation II of 1060, was repealed, and a new Regulation, X of 1094, was passed to consolidate and amend the law relating to the survey of lands and the settlement of boundary disputes.

8. Forests.—The work of forest settlement made rapid progress, as the result of the appointment of a Special Forest Settlement Officer, referred to in my address last year. Of the 19 reserves for settlement during 1094, one was cancelled, four were pending final notification under Section 18 of the Forest Regulation, and enquiries were completed in respect of 13 out of the remaining 14, so that the settlement of one reserve alone was pending enquiry with the Forest Settlement Officer at the close of the year. Also, of the 35 grazing blocks for settlement, enquiries remained to be conducted only in respect of one. With a view to enable the Special Forest Settlement Officer to complete his enquiries and submit final reports under Section 14 of the Regulation in respect of the blocks settled by him, Government have sanctioned the continuance of his services till the close of 1095. In regard to natural reproduction, Mr. Raman Menon, the present Conservator of Forests, observes that, in a country like Travancore where climatic conditions are so favourable, more attention may profitably be devoted to assist nature in this direction and that, with adequate interest on the part of the officers of the Department, it is easy for the State to maintain the present standard of excellence and utility in respect of its forests. Government endorse these observations and look up to the Conservator to adopt every means in his power to facilitate natural reproduction. An additional area of 421 acres was newly planted with teak during the year, thus raising the area of teak plantations maintained by the Department to 4,913 acres. Compact blocks of land are being selected in all the Forest Divisions of the State in pursuance of a general scheme to plant an area of about one square mile with teak per annum, continuously during the next ten years.

9. Salt.—An additional area of 107 acres available in the Manakkudi backwater at Tamaracolam was assigned for salt manufacture. The Variyur salt factory

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